

salmon and steelhead species. Over the past year, however, I have been pleased to support a new era of cooperation among tribes and various irrigation districts in Eastern Washington. An area of consensus has developed around the concept of "pump exchanges," which move the intake systems of irrigation districts from over appropriated streams and rivers to rivers downstream with more water. In July, I introduced legislation that authorizes the study of a pump exchange for the Okanogan Irrigation District and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. I hope this legislation will receive quick approval during the 107th Congress.

H.R. 3986 will amend the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program, YRBWEP, first approved by Congress in 1994 (P.L. 103-434). That legislation established a comprehensive framework for increasing critical flows in the Yakima River in order to reverse a longstanding trend of declining salmon and steelhead runs. One portion of that legislation, Section 1208, authorized a specific project to electrify hydraulic turbines at the Chandler Pumping Plant near Prosser, Washington. By converting these pumps from hydraulic to electrical power, an additional 400 second feet of water would be added to a 12-mile stretch of the Yakima River below Prosser Dam called Chandler Reach. This project would increase survival rates and provide important new habitat for both the anadromous and resident fisheries in this critical section of the Yakima River. This electrification project is still a good approach to augmenting Yakima River flows, but early in its implementation an even better idea was developed that can nearly double the benefits projected from electrification.

The pump exchange approach proposed in H.R. 3986 could result in completely eliminating the need to divert water at Prosser Dam and Wanawish Dam for use by the Kennewick Irrigation District, K.I.D., and the Columbia River Irrigation District, C.I.D. This plan will require building a new pumping plant on the Columbia River and a pipeline to connect this new facility to K.I.D. This approach could add back to the Yakima River during critical flow periods the entire 749 second feet of water now diverted at Prosser Dam. This project might well be the key to the success of the rest of the YRBWEP program. For the extensive efforts being made farther upstream to be entirely successful, the lower sections of the Yakima River must provide the conditions necessary for salmon and steelhead to survive their journey to and from the upper river and its tributaries. The Chandler Reach and the lower Yakima must have sufficient water at the right time for anadromous fish to be able to transit this area. Without it, the programs upstream will be less effective.

The legislation passed today authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to spend some of the funds previously authorized for the electrification project to develop this new approach. There are several studies and undertakings necessary to determine with certainty the efficacy and cost of this pump exchange project. These include carrying out a feasibility study, including an estimate of project benefits, an environmental impact analysis, and preparing a feasibility level design and cost estimates as well as securing critical right-of-way areas.

This change in approach to enhancing flows in the lower Yakima is enthusiastically supported by the resource agencies of the State of Washington, including the Washington State Department of Ecology, as well as by the Northwest Power Planning Council, the Bonneville Power Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

It is important to note that a change in the diversion for K.I.D. from the Yakima River to the Columbia River will completely change the current operational philosophy of the district. It will evolve from a relatively simple system relying on gravity to supply its customers to one of significant additional complexity involving a major pump station and pressure pipeline to the main feeder canals. This remodeling of K.I.D. will have significant impact on the existing system and its users during construction, startup, and transition. That is why it is essential for K.I.D. to be in a position to develop these facilities in a way that best fits their current and future operational goals and causes the least impact to the district water users. This legislation requires the Bureau of Reclamation to give K.I.D. substantial control over the planning and design work in this study with the Bureau, of course, having final approval. It is an approach that will continue local improvement and support, which is vital to the success of this project and other projects.

I thank Representative DOC HASTINGS for his leadership on this bill in the House of Representatives and appreciate the support of my colleagues in passing this bill that will provide a crucial component to the salmon recovery efforts in the Yakima Basin.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the bills be read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements be printed in the RECORD with the above occurring en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2984) was read the third time and passed.

The bill (H.R. 3986) was read the third time and passed.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2348

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 151, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 151) to make corrections in enrollment of the bill H.R. 2348 to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 151) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 151

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2348) to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost sharing for the endangered fish recovery implementation programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, the Clerk of the House shall make the following correction: Strike section 4 and insert:

SEC. 4. EFFECT OF RECLAMATION LAW

Specifically with regard to the acreage limitation provisions of Federal reclamation law, any action taken pursuant to or in furtherance of this title will not:

(1) be considered in determining whether a district as defined in section 202(2) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390bb) has discharged its obligation to repay the construction cost of project facilities used to make irrigation water available for delivery to land in the district;

(2) serve as the basis for reinstating acreage limitation provisions in a district that has completed payment of its construction obligation; or

(3) serve as the basis for increasing the construction repayment obligation of the district and thereby extending the period during which the acreage limitation provisions will apply.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE MILLION FAMILY MARCH

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 423, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 423) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Million Family March.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.